

Maryland's Natural Wood Waste Recycling Facility Program

Definition

A Natural Wood Waste Recycling Facility (NWWRF) is a facility that accepts natural wood waste such as stumps and tree limbs. Natural wood waste is usually generated when land is cleared for construction purposes. A NWWRF produces a variety of products from this waste including mulch and compost, and sells it to consumers. These facilities are valued because they take a waste product that would otherwise go to a landfill and make it into something useful. Recycling natural wood waste saves valuable landfill space, extending the life of the landfills in your county.



MDE's Policy

MDE views natural wood waste as vegetation, in its natural state, that has been discarded or designated for disposal. This would not include pallets, crates, lumber, wood chips, firewood or other products that may have been made from wood but have subsequently been processed. Facilities that only accept these types of materials would not be required to obtain a NWWRF Permit from MDE.

Regulations

To provide clarification and guidance regarding natural wood waste recycling facilities, regulations were adopted. Any person or company engaging in natural wood waste recycling activities must be regulated under Code of Maryland Regulations 26.04.09.

Who Need To Comply With The Natural Wood Waste Regulations?

Owners or operators of the facilities which will receive or process natural wood waste (trees, stumps, tree trunks, limbs, roots, or other materials derived from natural vegetation) and market this material must obtain a permit from MDE. A NWWRF does not include a collection or processing facility operated by a nonprofit or governmental organization located in the State, or single individual or business that provides recycling services solely for its own employees or for its own recyclable materials generated on its own premises.

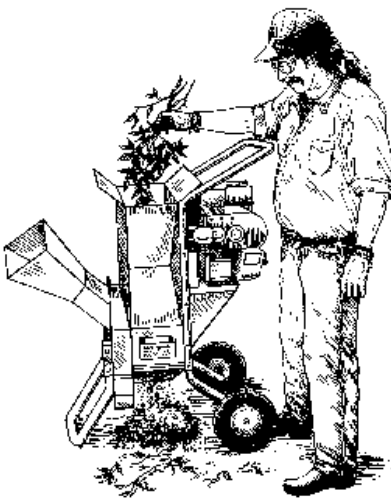
General Permit For NWWRF

MDE issues general permits authorizing the operations of NWWRF within Maryland. Responsible parties desiring to operate a NWWRF may submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to MDE. NOI's are mailed to companies who either request one or who have been determined to be a natural wood waste recycling facility by MDE. Depending on site specific conditions, MDE may elect to issue an individual permit. There is no fee for this permit.

How Does This Law Protect You?

MDE has a regulatory process that insures that a person or company may not engage in natural wood waste recycling in a manner that will likely:

- Create a nuisance;
- Be conducive to insect and rodent infestation or the harboring of animals;
- Cause a discharge of constituents derived from natural wood waste into the air or waters of the State unless permitted by MDE;
- Harm the environment; or
- Create other hazards to the public health, safety, or comfort as may be determined by MDE.



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